

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 00066 060749Z

11

ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 OES-05 /053 W

----- 117793

R 060424Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7198

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS CANBERRA 0066

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, AS

SUBJ: HOST GOVERNMENT CONSTRAINTS ON SCIENTISTS DOING  
RESEARCH ON DNA/RNA RECOMBINANTS

REF: STATE 298844

1. EMBASSY POUCHING AND SENDING VIA APO DIRECT TO DR. QUINN  
AND AMEMBASSY PARIS "GUIDELINES FOR BOTH PHYSICAL AND  
BIOLOGICAL CONTAINMENT PROCEDURES FOR WORK INVOLVING  
RECOMBINANT NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES" PREPARED BY PROFESSOR  
G.L. ADA OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE ON BEHALF OF ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCE'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON RECOMBINANT DNA MOLECULES.

2. BASICALLY DOCUMENT SETS UP AND DESCRIBES FIVE "RISK"  
CATEGORIES AND PRESCRIBES APPROPRIATE "CONTAINMENT MEASURES"  
TO BE FOLLOWED IN EACH CASE. THESE CATEGORIES ARE AT  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CANBER 00066 060749Z

FOLLOWS: A) MINIMAL RISK EXPERIMENTS: B) LOW RISK EXPERIMENTS:

C) MODERATE RISK EXPERIMENTS: D) HIGH RISK EXPERIMENTS AND  
F) EXPERIMENTS TO BE DEFERRED.

3. FINAL CATEGORY INCLUDES "TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE EXPERIMENTS WHICH PRESENT SUCH SERIOUS DANGERS THAT THEIR PERFORMANCE SHOULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN AT THIS TIME WITH THE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE VECTOR-HOST SYSTEMS AND PRESENTLY AVAILABLE CONTAINMENT CAPABILITY. THESE INCLUDE THE CLONING OF RECOMBINANT NUCLEIC ACIDS FROM HIGHLY PATHOGENIC ORGANISMS (I.E. CLASS 3 AND 4 AETIOLOGICAL AGENTS AS CLASSIFIED BY HEW), NUCLEIC ACIDS CONTAINING TOXIN GENES AND LARGE SCALE EXPERIMENTS (MORE THAN 10 LITERS OF CULTURE) USING RECOMBINANT NUCLEIC ACIDS THAT ARE ABLE TO MAKE PRODUCTS POTENTIALLY HARMFUL TO MAN, ANIMALS OR PLANTS."

4. HIGH RISK EXPERIMENTS ARE DESCRIBED AS THOSE IN WHICH "THE POTENTIAL FOR ECOLOGICAL DISRUPTION OR PATHOGENICITY OF THE MODIFIED ORGANISM COULD BE SEVERE, AND THEREBY POSE A SERIOUS BIOHAZARD BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE LABORATORY."

5. CONTAINMENT PROCEDURES FOR "HIGH RISK EXPERIMENTS" INCLUDE "ISOLATION FROM OTHER AREAS BY AIR LOCKS AND A NEGATIVE PRESSURE ENVIRONMENT, CLOTHING CHANGES AND SHOWERS FOR ENTERING PERSONNEL AND LABORATORIES FITTED WITH TREATMENT SYSTEMS TO INACTIVATE OR REMOVE BIOLOGICAL AGENTS THAT MAY BE CONTAMINANTS IN EXHAUST AIR AND LIQUID AND SOLID WASTES. THE HANDLING OF AGENTS SHOULD BE CONFINED TO BIOLOGICAL SAFETY CABINETS FROM WHICH THE EXHAUST AIR IS INCINERATED". CONTAINMENT PROCEDURE ALSO PRESCRIBES USE OF "RIGOROUSLY TESTED VECTORS AND HOSTS WHOSE GROWTH CAN BE CONFINED TO THE LABORATORY."

6. RISK DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTAINMENT LEVELS FOR OTHER CATEGORIES ARE APPROPRIATELY SCALED DOWN FROM HIGH RISK CATEGORY.

7. ACCORDING TO DR. ROBERT CUMMING, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), THERE IS NO FORMAL GOA POLICY IN THIS AREA NOR IS THERE LIKELY TO BE. CUMMING SAID, HOWEVER, THAT NUMBER OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CANBER 00066 060749Z

AUSTRALIAN SCIENTISTS LIKELY DO WORK IN THIS FIELD STRICTLY LIMITED AND WELL KNOWN TO SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. COMMITTEE REQUESTS SCIENTISTS WORKING ON OR PROPOSING WORK IN THIS AREA TO STUDY GUIDELINES AND THEN FILL IN QUESTIONNAIRE. COMMITTEE WILL ASSESS DEGREE OF HAZARD IN SUBMITTED PROPOSALS AND WILL RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE CONTAINMENT PROCEDURES. DOH EXPECTS BE ABLE MONITOR PROPOSED STUDIES THROUGH NEED FOR FINANCING OF PROPOSED PROJECTS, VAST MAJORITY OF WHICH

COMES FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCES IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.

PERCIVAL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, MEDICAL RESEARCH  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976CANBER00066  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760003-0628  
**From:** CANBERRA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760184/aaaacwun.tel  
**Line Count:** 117  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION HEW  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 298844  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** castelsl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 JAN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 JAN 2004 by harleykd>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by castelsl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HOST GOVERNMENT CONSTRAINTS ON SCIENTISTS DOING RESEARCH ON DNA/RNA RECOMBINANTS  
**TAGS:** TPHY, OSCI, AS, (ADA, G L)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006